



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

***Georgia – Complex Emergency***

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 17, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 16, 2008.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On August 17, international media reported that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has pledged to begin withdrawing Russian armed forces from Georgia beginning August 18. Media sources indicated no significant fighting on August 17, although Russian troops reportedly retain control of multiple towns as well as the major east-west highway in the country.
- As of August 16, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that insecurity continues to prevent humanitarian agencies from accessing areas within South Ossetia, and emergency relief efforts remain focused in and around Tbilisi.
- In addition, general lawlessness and road blockades have prevented several U.N. convoys from assessing conditions in Gori town, Shida Kartli Region. On August 15, unidentified armed assailants hijacked two Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) vehicles outside Gori.
- On August 17, U.S. Senator Joe Biden traveled to Tbilisi and met with the USAID/OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense staff, Government of Georgia (GoG) officials, and persons displaced by the conflict to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Georgia and USG relief efforts.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Newly Displaced Persons in Georgia	88,240	UNHCR - August 17, 2008
Newly Displaced Persons in Russia	30,000	OCHA - August 14, 2008

**FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....\$1,376,191  
State/EUR/ACE Assistance to Georgia.....\$2,844,581  
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....\$4,220,772

**CURRENT SITUATION**

***Security and Access***

- On August 17, international media reports and USG assessments confirmed the destruction of a 25-meter span of a railway bridge located east of Gori. The damaged bridge has temporarily halted rail traffic including the transport of food, fuel, and relief commodities between Gori and the Georgian capital of Tbilisi on the only east-west rail line in Georgia. The USAID/OFDA DART notes that the GoG is estimating repairs will take approximately 10 days.

***Priority Needs***

- While the lack of humanitarian access has prevented efforts to determine the scale and precise needs of displaced and conflict-affected populations in South Ossetia, Abkhazia, and additional areas in western Georgia, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has released an initial appeal based on rapid assessments of Tbilisi and nearby towns of Mtskheta and Tianeti. On August 15, UNICEF appealed for an initial \$3.2 million for water and sanitation interventions, health and nutrition activities, and education and child protection services.
- On August 17, the USAID/OFDA DART and USAID/Georgia noted that prepared food, hygiene kits, and shelter and bedding material are priority needs for displaced populations.
- The USAID/DART in coordination with USAID/Georgia and the U.S. Department of State are working to provide technical assistance to the GoG regarding the current humanitarian crisis. In addition, the USG is working with the GoG and international relief community to effectively prioritize the shipment and distribution of priority relief commodities for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Georgia.
- UNICEF is working to provide water tankering services for IDPs staying in collective centers in and around Tbilisi. The U.N. agency has distributed bottled water to an estimated 1,050 IDPs without access to running water and is working to expand current operations.

**Displacement**

- As of August 17, UNHCR reports that the number of people displaced by the conflict has risen to approximately 118,240 people, according to figures provided by the GoG and the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF). The total reflects an estimated 30,000 people who fled to North Ossetia in Russia, and 88,240 people displaced within Georgia. However, humanitarian agencies continue to note the lack of precise IDP figures.
- In North Ossetia, GoRF officials report registering 16,500 persons of concern from South Ossetia, according to OCHA on August 16.

**Emergency Relief Supplies**

- On August 17, two U.S. European Command (EUCOM) flights arrived in Tbilisi, delivering additional relief commodities from the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE) warehouse in Germany. The current batch of six EUCOM flights to arrive in recent days have included relief commodities such as blankets and bedding material valued at nearly \$425,000 excluding transport.

**Emergency Food Assistance**

- As of August 16, the GoG, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and relief agencies have provided emergency food and additional assistance to approximately 58,000 people, according to OCHA. WFP distributions have reached 58,000 IDPs and include flour, oil, sugar, beans, salt, and high-energy biscuits.
- Despite generally restricted access to Gori, WFP successfully dispatched a truck carrying high-energy biscuits and sugar to the town on August 15. The delivery also included canned meat, buckwheat, pasta, and tea provided by the non-governmental organization World Vision.
- On August 16, approximately 60 tons of USAID-funded high-energy biscuits arrived in Tbilisi airport, to be distributed by WFP. In addition, WFP has secured the local purchase of 66 metric tons (MT) of flour in Tbilisi and plans to conduct a local purchase of 75 MT of pasta in the coming days.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$250,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi for the provision of emergency relief supplies to benefit up to 10,000 people. The U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi released Department of State pre-positioned disaster packages including medical supplies, tents, blankets, bedding, hygiene items, and clothing valued at \$1.2 million.
- On August 12, EUCOM began airlifting State/EUR/ACE-provided relief and medical supplies to Tbilisi. As of August 17, eight flights carrying additional relief, shelter, and medical commodities, including 104,000 doses of antibiotics requested by the GoG Ministry of Health, have arrived in Tbilisi. These commodities are valued at more than \$1.6 million.
- On August 13, the enhanced USAID/OFDA regional team for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia transitioned to a Response Management Team based in Washington D.C. to coordinate USG humanitarian response efforts, identify priority needs, and program additional emergency assistance.
- On August 14, USAID/OFDA in collaboration with USAID Office of Food for Peace provided \$1 million to WFP for the procurement of 653.5 MT of emergency food commodities for populations affected by the ongoing emergency.
- On August 15, the USAID/OFDA DART arrived in Tbilisi to conduct humanitarian needs assessments, coordinate with the GoG and relief agencies, and inform further USAID assistance priorities. USAID/OFDA continues to work closely with the U.S. Department of State, Department of Defense, and humanitarian agencies on the ground to coordinate relief activities.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
USAID/Georgia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi, Bolnisi, Khashuri, Borjomi, Akhaltsikhe	\$250,000
WFP	653.40 metric tons (MT) of Emergency Food Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000

	Administration and DART Support		\$126,191
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,376,191</b>
<b>STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,844,581
<b>TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE</b>			<b>\$2,844,581</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$4,220,772</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 17, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> State/EUR/ACE has facilitated the provision of emergency relief supplies to non-governmental organizations for distribution in cooperation with the GoG Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation. The funding amounts represent the approximate value of relief commodities and do not include the cost of U.S. European Command military flights that have transported the supplies from warehouses in Germany to Georgia.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Georgia may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)